

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 NEAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 OMB-01 /081 W

----- 089070

O R 111230Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6954

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5467

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: RABAT 5455

1. MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO SPAIN; SADAT MEDIATION EFFORT? ISTIQLAL'S

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L'OPINION, CITING INFORMATION FROM "RELIABLE SOURCE", REPORTED

NOVEMBER 11 THAT GOM DELEGATION HEADED BY PRIMIN OSMAN AND INCLUDING FONMIN LARAKI AND PHOSPHATE COMPANY CHIEF KARIM LAMRANI, DEPARTING SAME DAY FOR MADRID.

2. L'OPINION STORY ALSO CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT EXPECTED HERE NOV 11 TO UNDERTAKE MEDIATION TO "AVOID ARMED CONFRONTATION" BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA. REPORT WENT ON TO CLAIM THAT SADAT WILL BE SUPPORTED IN HIS INITIATIVE BY PLO LEADER ARAFAT. ISTIQLAL'S ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, AL ALAM, SAID SADAT WOULD BE STOPPING FIRST IN ALGIERS, AND RECALLED SADAT'S OFFER OF GOOD OFFICES DURING HIS RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE IN LONDON.

3. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SOURCES HERE SAY THEY UNINFORMED ABOUT ANY SUCH SADAT VISIT AND HAVE URGENTLY CABLED STORY TO CAIRO.

4. GOM SOFTENS THREAT TO RESUME MARCH. NOV 11 MEDIA HANDLING OF MININFO BENHIMA'S NOV 10 PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL) CAREFULLY TAILORED TO AVOID SUGGESTION THAT MARCHERS IN ANY WAY POISED IN TARFAYA TO RESUME MARCH. OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP STORY CONTAINED NO REFERENCE TO REMARKS REPORTED EARLIER LINKING NEGOTIATION PROGRESS TO PLANS FOR MARCHERS. IN FACT, MAP'S REPORT OF A NOV 10 BENHIMA INTERVIEW WITH FRANCE-INTER SEEMED DESIGNED CLARIFY RECORD ON THIS POINT. BENHIMA TOLD FRANCE-INTER THAT MARCHERS' PRESENCE IN TARFAYA CONSTITUTES NO THREAT TO SPAIN, NOTING THAT TARFAYA IS IN MOROCCO.

5. COMMENT: SADAT MEDIATION EFFORT WOULD COME AS SURPRISE, AND WOULD PRESUMABLY BE A PUBLIC INDICATOR THAT MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN TENSIONS AT DANGEROUS LEVEL. WHILE GOM HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED WITH LUKEWARM EGYPTIAN SUPPORT OF ITS SAHARA POSITION, SADAT CONTINUES TO ENJOY CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE HERE.

6. GOM'S CAREFUL REVISION OF BENHIMA NOV 10 REMARKS SHOWS IT ATTEMPTING, ON EVE RESUMPTION TALKS WITH SPAIN, TO MAINTAIN CONCILIATORY ATMOSPHERE SET BY KING'S NOV 9 SPEECH.
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